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COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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January 4, 2008

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Delores Brown, Chief
Office of Environmental Compliance
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Brown:

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) supports continued implementation of the 1996 Monterey Amendment and commends the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on its thorough preparation of the Monterey Plus Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

CVWD is one of the 29 public agencies that contract with the state through the DWR for State Water Project water. Our customers are among those who benefit from and help pay the costs of maintaining the State Water Project and the delivery of its water. The Monterey Amendment was a crucial accord between the state and state water contractors to ensure that contracts reflected the reality of operating the State Water Project and changes that had occurred since the agreements were signed in the 1960s.

CVWD concurs with the findings of the DEIR that there have been no significant impacts resulting from the Monterey Amendment between its 1996 adoption and today; and in the future environmental impacts in almost all resource categories are at less-than-significant levels. Where there are exceptions, those are present only within worst-case scenarios, are unlikely to occur or, in the case of some future projects, will be addressed in future CEQA review.

The Monterey Amendment continues to be vital to the ability of State Water Contractors to deliver water to millions of residents and businesses and hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland. The accord settled disputes regarding allocations, gave contractors greater flexibility in managing limited State Water Project supplies and helped to stabilize water rates and increase the availability of funds for development of local conservation, recycling, conjunctive use and other management programs.

The flexibility given to contractors because of this agreement helped the state weather recent drought conditions much more effectively than was possible in the early 1990s, before the accord was in place.

Again, CVWD applauds your efforts and those of your staff and the other public and private agencies and organizations that have worked so tirelessly on developing this DEIR.

Yours very truly,

Steve Robbins,

General Manager-Chief Engineer

cc: SWC, ACWA, CMUA

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USE WATER WISELY